

REMARKS

The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed in the above-referenced case on April 6, 2005, and made Final. Claims 21-34 stand for examination. Claims 21, 22, 27-29, and 34 stand rejected over DeLorme et al., US 5,948,040, hereinafter DeLorme. Claims 23 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over DeLorme in view of allegedly disclosed prior art. Claims 24 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over DeLorme in view of Cummings, Jr. et al., 6,345,260, of record. Claims 25 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over DeLorme in view of Lousig-Nont (Top Ten Excuses for Ignoring the Internet, George M. Lousig-Nont, USA Today, January 1997, pgs 58-59), hereinafter Lousig-Nont.

The applicant has carefully reviewed the primary reference of DeLorme again, and the Examiner's statements and reasoning in the rejections, particularly in the "response to arguments" section, where the Examiner has referred to parts of DeLorme not relied upon in the previous action, and the applicant is forced to admit that the previous remarks regarding the DeLorme reference were hasty.

In consequence, the applicant apologizes for having not perused DeLorme carefully enough, and herein cancels all of the standing claims and enters two new claims, one independent system claim and one equivalent independent method claim. In these two new claims a server and a client station are recited, each executing software, and operation is recited as limitation wherein the appointment server, through the first software, presents to browsing clients an interactive interface enabling the clients to select individual ones of the subscribing businesses, and once a subscribing business is selected displays to the selecting client an interactive appointment/reservation schedule to select an appointment or reservation with the business, wherein the appointment server updates the appointment/reservation schedule at the server for each business as browsing clients make appointments/reservations, wherein the appointment/reservation server periodically provides updated appointment schedules to the subscribing businesses which are displayed by the second software interactively, allowing the subscribing businesses to further update the appointment reservation schedules and to return them to the

appointment/reservation server, which updated versions then becomes the interactive schedules displayed to browsing clients.


These two claims are considerably more narrow than the previously-standing independent claims, and recite a system wherein the server and the client station operate cooperatively, allowing the browsing client to select appointments/reservations, causing updated schedules at the server, which periodically shares the updated schedules with the subscribing businesses, and the subscribing businesses also can update the schedules and return them to the server, which then used them as updated schedules.

In DeLorme the client may make a reservation, which is then sent to the business for acceptance/rejection by retuning a code. Clearly the TRIPS server does not keep and update schedules and share them periodically with the businesses. This is a new and patentably distinct feature over the cited art, allowing the appointment server system of the invention to serve as a real broker of service inventory to browsing clients.

The applicant believes new claims 35 and 36 to be patentable over the art thus far cited and applied, and respectfully requests reconsideration, and that the case be allowed and passed quickly to issue.

If there are any time extensions due beyond any extension requested and paid with this amendment, such extensions are hereby requested. If there are any fees due beyond any fees paid with the present amendment, such fees are authorized to be deducted from deposit account 50-0534.

Respectfully Submitted,
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